

IRS provides troops combat tax assistance

WASHINGTON – Service members serving in a combat zone can learn about the tax benefits available to them by visiting a new section of the Internal Revenue Service’s Web site. The information is available on the front page of www.irs.gov by clicking on “Armed Forces Tax Benefits.”

The new Web section provides questions and answers on exclusions, extensions and other tax benefits available to members of the armed forces serving in a combat zone. Also available on the Web is IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces’ Tax Guide, which covers the special tax situations of members of the armed forces serving on active duty.

Other help includes Tax Tip 2003-41 – *Reservists, New Enlistees May Get Deferral for Back Taxes*; News Release IR-2002-18 – *Tax Relief for Troops in Afghanistan Combat Zone*; and Notice 2002-17 – *Tax Relief for those Involved in Operation Enduring Freedom*.

A special e-mail address is also offered on the Web site for service members, their spouses, authorized agents or representatives, which can be used to notify the IRS about someone serving in a combat zone.

“At this important time, our dedicated military personnel in combat zones should not be worried about tax issues,” said IRS Acting Commissioner Bob Wenzel. “We want each of them to receive all of the tax benefits they are entitled to. We want all of our servicemen and servicewomen, and their families, to know that we are here to help.”

The IRS automatically extends the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refund and taking other actions related to federal income tax for military people serving in a combat zone. The deadline is also extended for people deployed overseas in support of operations in qualified hazardous duty areas, but who’re outside that area.

The deadline for filing returns, making payments or taking any other action with the IRS is extended for at least 180 days after the last day of qualifying combat zone service or the last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from service in the combat zone.

In addition to visiting the Web site, people can call the main IRS help line at (800) 829-1040. **(AFPN)**



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Lt. Col. Mike Plehn, 19th Special Operations Squadron commander, talks to Marvin Walker, project superintendent, about construction progress on the building that will house the CV-22 Operational Flight Trainer. Construction is scheduled to be completed by April 22, 2004.

SOW prepares for CV-22 training

By Staff Sgt. Laura Holzer
58th SOW Public Affairs

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Two CV-22 simulators are now operational at Kirtland Air Force Base and one Operational Flight Trainer is scheduled to be brought on-line at Hurlburt Field by January 2006.

The Air Force officially accepted ownership of its first full-motion CV-22 simulator at the 58th Training Squadron, Kirtland AFB, in February.

The 58th Training Squadron will receive four simulators for CV-22 pilot and flight engineer training.

The simulators at Kirtland provide day, dusk and night tactical Special Operations training, as well as cockpit, instrument and emergency procedures for pilots and flight engineers. The simulators feature a state of the art visual system and realistic training database to mimic the aircraft’s capabilities in all levels of weather and terrain.

The Operational Flight Trainer, which will be operated by the 19th Special Operations Squadron here, is almost identical to a Full Flight Simulator, except an OFT has a limited motion base, according to James Gravely, 19th SOS. “The FFS is a

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‘Generally’ impressed

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Commandos take on UWF in college-rules match

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VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions on subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others

by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. Frank Kisner,
16th SOW commander

Break out of your rut

By Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr.
82nd Training Wing commander

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Originally, a rut was a deep, narrow track made in the ground by the wheels of a cart or carriage in a road-way after continuous use.

Today, the term's used to describe a condition where people find themselves doing the same tired routine, in the same uninspired way.

In James Hunter's "The Servant," a favorite leadership book of mine, a character describes life's ruts as "little more than a coffin with the ends kicked out."

In short, a rut's a hole. Sometimes you're so deep inside it that you don't have the energy to climb out; you may not even be able to see the way out.

Many people are content to dwell inside their private rut. Many people blame others for creating it. Some never

even realize that they're caught inside their routine.

It takes energy to climb out of a hole. Getting out of a rut or leaving your comfort zone takes more energy than staying in it. The Air Force's continuously transforming to remain relevant for today and tomorrow; there's no rut here.

In your personal and professional life you might find that you've slipped into a rut. The path you dreamed of taking has faded from view and become the path you wish you could have taken.

Some of the symptoms that become evident when you're stuck in a rut include: feelings of helplessness; loss of mobility; a general sense of boredom; or if you've lost your desire to excel. It's not too late, though. I encourage you to seek a way out.

I challenge you to do a painfully honest analysis of your current situation, then motivate yourself to try a

new, different, creative way of transforming a dead ritual into a living expression of your individuality.

Enlist others to help transform your dead work area into an inspiring creativity center. Approach your situation anew and challenge the general thinking of, "That's how we've always done it."

Read a good book on management, leadership or a hero of yours. Start a fitness regimen or plant a garden. By trying something new, you'll avoid falling into the ruts left by those who never attempted to succeed.

Ruts form when everyone goes in the same direction. Until you force yourself to move up, you aren't going anywhere, except wherever the rut is going. If you don't like that road, then you'd better find a new track.

Don't let your motto be, "We never did it that way before." Rather, embrace the Air Force Core Value, "Excellence in all we do." (AFPN)

Helping children cope with deployment

By Capt. (Dr.) Tim Sheahan
379 Air Expeditionary Wing

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM — Deployments are often very stressful for people left behind.

Those affected most may be deployed members' children.

Changes seen in children can be distressing for both the stateside and deployed parent, as well as children struggling with the parent's departure.

The most important information for concerned parents is that their child's response to the deployment, while distressing, is normal. Children can't respond to change the way adults do, and are unlikely to say, "Daddy, I'm sad mommy's gone, and scared she won't come back."

Here are some common scenarios and helpful information.

When moms deploy, children may "cling" to their dads. They may act afraid to go to school, become upset if dad is out of sight, or may want to sleep in the same bed. This may suggest the child is afraid that since their mom left, dad may

also. Fathers should reassure children and spend time with them, and assure children that he's not going anywhere, and that mom's coming home as soon as possible.

Another common scenario is to have good children become disobedient. A drop in grades may occur, as well as acting out (hitting others, biting, breaking rules, etc). These are the children's tests to see how much of their life has changed. Something like, "Hmm... mom's gone. I wonder if the rules have changed about what I can do."

This isn't malicious or manipulative, but borne of uncertainty, and consistent discipline is crucial. Mom isn't there, but the rules and consequences that exist to keep the child safe haven't changed. This can provide a sense of comfort and consistency to children.

Many bases have programs available for family members of deployed personnel through family support centers.

As tough as life may be for deployed members, people may forget how families can be affected. Managing personal stress is very important, but people must commit to easing the stress of those too young to do it for themselves. (AFPN)



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www.hurlburt.af.mil

News



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Religious rocks

Tommy Burman adds a stone to a rock formation at the Hurlburt Field chapel entrance March 30. Created by the chapel's Protestant youth group, called Special Operations Youth, the formation is constructed of "Ebenezer" stones and was put up in honor of deployed members, and serves to remind people that the group is behind them and prays for them. Several similar formations have been made by a deployed chaplain, and served as inspiration for the one at the chapel.

Spotlight on ...

Christopher Crutchfield

Rank/Duty Title: Technical sergeant/Advanced technologies branch NCO in-charge

Organization: 720th Special Tactics Group

Hometown: Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Hobbies: Boating and running a small business

Contribution to the mission:

Sergeant Crutchfield is a widely recognized subject matter expert for unmanned aerial vehicles. He's one of only two voting members representing Air Force Special Operations Command and the Air Force on UAV initiatives within U.S. Special Operations Command's special operations research element.

He serves as the 720th STG and AFSOC's executive agent for UAV issues, including air-to-space integration, training and development of tactics, techniques and procedures to support the Special Operations mission.

He was a driving factor behind the stand-up of AFSOC's first UAV squadron, and was recently selected as the Hurlburt Field Chief's Group Sharp Award winner.

(Editor's Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

Army general checks up on troops

By Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Army Brig. Gen. Herbert Newton, 28th Enhanced Separate Brigade commander, visited Army National Guard troops conducting security forces operations here March 19.

During his visit he stopped at several security points to talk to some of the 81 Army troops about their role at Hurlburt Field.

"The visit went well," said Army 1st Lt. Bert Higginbotham, B Company, 146th Signal Battalion executive officer, who coordinated the general's visit. "He came to check on his troops to ensure the Air Force is taking care of them. He found that they're being very well taken care of by our Air Force family."

General Newton said his troops are satisfied with their accommodations here.

"Unit morale is very high at this installation," the general said. "Our soldiers are very content with their billeting accommodations, and are very pleased with food preparation and wait time for meals in the dining facility."

Most of the Army National Guard troops are from the panhandle area, and "none of the soldiers we spoke with had any issues or problems with their duty environment or quarters," said General Newton.

During his stay he visited Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, Col. Raymond Killgore, 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander, and Maj. Michael Reiner, 16th Security Forces Squadron commander, along with Capt. James Lewis, B Company, 146th SB commander.

Before traveling to Hurlburt Field, the general visited Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, followed by a stop at Eglin Air Force Base to speak with troops augmenting the 96th Security Forces Squadron. He was accompanied by people from both the 146th SB and the 218th ESB.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor

Army Brig. Gen. Herbert Newton, 28th Enhanced Separate Brigade commander, speaks with an Army National Guard troop at Hurlburt Field's main gate.

AIR FORCE NEWS

Air Force announces TSP open season

By Staff Sgt. Matt Miller

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Civilian and military employees can sign up for or change current Thrift Savings Plan accounts during “open season” beginning Tuesday and continuing until June 30.

“TSP is an easy, long-term retirement savings plan, that everyone should consider,” said Maj. Alessandra Stokstad, chief of the contact center. “Current account holders might be interested, too, in transferring money from one fund to another – the TSP folks are set up to handle that.”

“Either way it’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans,” said Major Stokstad. “It’s important to note that TSP isn’t limited to investing in stocks. People can choose safer government securities as well.”

Janet Thomas of the center’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team said, “Employees already contributing to the TSP are encouraged to review their TSP plan and account balances. The open season period is the best time to open an account or make changes to an existing one.”

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute, while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“You can take out loans and make withdrawals from your TSP account,” said Ms. Thomas. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” said Major Stokstad. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

Account changes made on or before May 31 will take effect June 1 for both military and civilian personnel. Changes made on or after June 1 will become effective in the following pay period for civilians, and the following month for military.

The TSP can be started or changed online at the myPay Web site www.mypay.dfas.mil, or at the finance office.

For more information, call the Hurlburt Field Finance office at 884-6224. (AFPC)



Image courtesy of Department of Defense video footage

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – An image from Department of Defense video footage shown during a U.S. Central Command news conference April 2 shows the rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch April 1 by Air Force pilots and Combat Controllers.

Air Force helps rescue Army private

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Air Force pilots and combat controllers played a part in the rescue of Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch from the hands of her Iraqi captors, during a mission into the town of Nasiriyah, April 2.

Coalition Special Operations Forces rescued Private Lynch, who was held at the Saddam Hospital – a facility used by the regime as a military post, said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, CENTCOM’s deputy chief of operations, during a press conference in Qatar.

Private Lynch, 19, is assigned to the 507th Ordnance Maintenance Company, based at Fort Bliss, Texas. She had been missing since March 23, after irregular Iraqi forces ambushed the convoy she was riding in.

CENTCOM officials said the convoy took a wrong turn around Nasiriyah and was ambushed by civilian-clothed Iraqi soldiers.

General Brooks said Army Rangers, Air Force pilots and Combat Controllers, Navy SEALs and Marines participated in the mission. There were no coalition casualties.

“It was a classic joint operation done by some of our nation’s finest warriors, who’re dedicated to never leaving a comrade behind,” he said.

The raiders also found 11 bodies at the hospital, General Brooks said. Two were found in the morgue and nine others were buried in a nearby graveyard.

“Coalition forces were escorted to those locations by someone who was taken into custody during the assault,” he said. “At this point, we’re doing additional forensic and medical

examinations to find out who they might be.”

There were no firefights inside the hospital, but plenty of action outside, General Brooks said.

The forces also found mortars, ammunition, maps, terrain models and other equipment –making it clear Iraqi forces were using the hospital as a military headquarters.

Private Lynch is currently being treated at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

“She’s safe, she’s been retrieved, and some brave souls put their lives on the line to make it happen,” General Brooks said.

“They’re loyal to a creed that they know, that they will never leave a fallen comrade and never embarrass their country,” the general concluded. (AFPN)

Look who’s talking: What’s your favorite aisle at the grocery store and why?

“I like the meat aisle because I like to cook meat on the grill and have friends over for a good time.”

“The produce aisle is my favorite because I like all the fresh vegetables.”

“I like the ice cream aisle because no meal is complete without mint chocolate chip ice cream.”

5th SOS earns Grover Loening Award

By Karey Draper

Air Armanent Center Public Affairs

The 5th Special Operations Squadron, part of the 919th Special Operations Wing, Duke Field, has been named the 2002 Grover Loening Award winner. The award is given annually to the best flying squadron in the Air Force Reserve.

"The squadron was activated following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and was deployed by November," said Lt. Col. Joseph Thomas, 5th SOS chief pilot and acting commander. "We've been deployed ever since."

The 5th SOS's mission is to refuel helicopters in flight using the MC-130P Combat Shadow.

"We can refuel any kind of helicopter that's equipped with a probe," Colonel Thomas said. "This includes: the Army's MH-47; the Air Force's MH-53; and the Navy's CH-53."

Beyond that, Colonel Thomas said the squadron can: conduct airdrops of people and equipment; make landings using night vision goggles, in complete blackout conditions on either a dirt strip or a paved runway; and

can receive fuel from a tanker.

The squadron's receiving the award based on their performance in the combat zone for the entire span of 2002.

"This tightly knit squadron performed selflessly and courageously in the war against terrorism," said Lt. Col. Michael Wercinski, 5th SOS commander.

"They consistently displayed exemplary dedication and unwavering fortitude...while completing their missions in austere locations and often under heavy enemy fire," the colonel continued.

According to the Air Force award nomination, these missions included: the rescue and return of MC-130P crewmembers, after their aircraft crashed into a mountain during a mission to capture suspected Taliban forces; performing harrowing daylight air-refueling in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom; and rescuing injured U.S. soldiers, following an attack by Al-Qaeda forces.

The squadron also completed 500 combat and combat support sorties during Operation Enduring Freedom and flew more than 1400 hours of air-refueling, combat search and rescue, and airdrop missions

throughout the area of operation.

The 5th SOS first sergeant, said that the squadron's performance was largely due to the exceptional leadership of Wercinski.

Colonel Thomas, a reservist on military leave as a pilot for Delta Airlines, said that the squadron currently has most of its members deployed in support of current operations.

"Those of us here spend our days training and trying to spend time with our families," the colonel said.

According to the award nomination, the 5th SOS is the only Special Operations Reserve associate in the history of the Air Force. Its activation was the first ever and is now into its 18th month.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Stogsdill, 919th Special Operations Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Brett Clark, 919th Operations Group commander, said that the award recognizes and honors the dedicated men and women of the squadron, who have and continue to perform brilliantly through the tough challenges of combat.

"On behalf of General Stogsdill and the entire Duke Field community, we congratulate and salute the quiet professionals of the 5th SOS," Colonel Clark said.

**ARMED FORCES COMM INC
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Meet the new commander

Name/Rank: J. Marcus
Hicks/Lieutenant colonel

Organization: 14th Weapons
Squadron

Hometown: Great Falls, Va.

Off duty time is for: Spending
time with friends, training for
triathlons, hiking, rock-climbing
and kayaking



Previous assignment: After graduating from undergraduate pilot training, Colonel Hicks was assigned to the 16th Special Operations Squadron, flying the AC-130H Gunship. He's a command pilot with more than 2,700 flight hours, primarily in Gunships with more than 60 combat missions in Panama during Operation Just Cause, and over Bosnia during Operation Deny Flight. He served as an instructor pilot and flight examiner for the AC-130H and as an initial cadre evaluator in the AC-130U. Colonel Hicks is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Air Force School of Advanced Air Power Studies.

Organizational goals: Provide the best weapons officers for Air Force Special Operations Command, the Air Force and the nation.

Work philosophy: Work smart and hard, in that order. Be proud of what we do and appreciate the trust given to us by the American people.

Did you know?

Cell Phones Are Risky Business

Cellular phones have three major security vulnerabilities:

○ They are subject to outside monitoring when in use

○ They may be turned on without people's knowledge to monitor their conversations

○ "Cloning," the use of a cell phone number by others to make calls that are charged to that account



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DeCA streamlines returned check process

FORT LEE, Va. – New streamlined processing procedures for returned checks are viewed as a win-win situation for commissary shoppers and store employees looking for better ways to provide customer service.

The new centralized returned-check processing won't affect the way shoppers write checks, but should substantially reduce the number of paper checks returned to commissaries for insufficient funds.

Returned checks, normally routed back to commissaries for collection, will instead be sent to Solutran, which is a centralized processing site that provides service for a variety of businesses that process a high volume of low-value transactions, said Jimaye Sones, the Defense Commissary Agency's director of accounting.

The centralized processor will electronically deduct the checks from customers' checking

accounts and start procedures to assess the insufficient fund administrative fee. These deductions have a high success rate because pay cycles have sufficiently replenished customers' accounts to cover the bounced checks.

This more efficient process will: eliminate insufficient-fund service charges; standardize redemption processes within commissaries; and allow store employees to devote more time to customer service, said Mr. Sones.

However, only commissaries within the United States will institute the process, and all stores should have it implemented by the end of the summer.

The new process results from a collaborative effort between DeCA, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bank of America and Solutran. **(DeCa)**

CV-22, Continued from Page 1

full motion base, full up simulator and is primarily needed for initial training, where OFTs are primarily used to refresh the skills of qualified crew members – therefore, less motion fidelity is needed. This approach saves the Air Force money without compromising the training needed."

The building to house the OFT is scheduled for completion April 22, 2004.

Once the non-motion simulator's operational, it'll also undergo a rigorous check-out period, and people from Air Force Special Operations Command, Kirtland, Boeing, Bell and Edwards Air Force Bases will test it.

"The new CV-22 Operational Flight Trainer device will be an amazing addition to our training and mission rehearsal capability in the 19th SOS," said Lt. Col. Mike Plehn, 19th SOS commander.

"A great deal of CV-22 flight training will be accomplished on the simulator," said Lt. Col. Joseph Maguire, 58th Training Squadron operations officer, "so it's very important the CV-22 simulator performs as realistically as possible."

The simulators will be networked to other Air Force simulators throughout the country and will allow aircrews to train in various combat scenarios. Unlike other simulators at the formal schoolhouse, the instructor operator station can even be accessed from one of the front seats.

"This is an important feature which reduces manpower costs since only one instructor is needed to fully operate the simulator," said Lt. Col. Joe Falzone, the CV-22 Aircrew Training Devices Program manager. "The additional touch-screen

panel allows the instructor to fly the simulator from the front seat and still have access to all simulator mission functions. These state-of-the-art simulators will greatly and dramatically improve the way we train combat-ready aircrews for Air Force Special Operations Command."

Training on the \$28 million simulator is more cost-effective than training on the flight line aircraft. The simulator initially costs one-fourth of an actual CV-22 aircraft and less expensive to operate per hour – approximately 10 percent of the aircraft flying hour costs.

"We anticipate using the simulators for up to 70 percent of the total training with a much higher reliability rate; we're in a controlled environment, not at the mercy of weather and maintenance, or subject to other delays due to limited parts availability," said Colonel Falzone.

For now, the simulator's being used to train initial cadre aircrews and validate courseware needed for student training.

"Our ability to use simulators to conduct distributed mission operations in the virtual battlespace represents a quantum leap forward in our ability to prepare SOF (Special Operations Forces) warriors for combat, Colonel Plehn said. "The new CV-22 OFT will give us the same capability with AFSOC's newest weapon system. The payoff is huge – ultimately, mission rehearsal allows us to practice our missions to the point of success, enabling us to learn from our mistakes in training rather than pay for them in combat."

(Editor's note: Information for this story was contributed by the 16th SOW Public Affairs office.)

(NFNS)

Medical care appointment tips

The 16th Medical Group provides non-urgent care through its family practice, pediatrics, flight medicine, dental, optometry, women's health and behavioral health services. Appointments can be made through the central appointment service at 883-8600 or 884-7882.

If someone needs emergency care, they can

either go to the 96th Medical Group at Eglin Air Force Base or to the closest civilian emergency room, or call 911 for emergency medical response.

Patient care is the number-one concern of the 16th MDG. People with questions or comments regarding their care should call their primary care manager or Capt. Kathryn Shaw, patient advocate, at 881-5166.

FEATURE



Photos courtesy of the 16th Medical Group

Special Operations doctors (left) check out the Portable Remote Diagnostic Information and Telemedicine System at a command surgeon conference here March 25 which showcased medical advances that are increasing survival chances for troops injured on the battlefield. (above) The Rapid All-Terrain Transporter is used by Pararescuemen to collect and transport injured people on the battlefield.

Special Ops medics showcase capabilities

By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
AFSOC Public Affairs

Today, in the midst of the battlefield of Operation Iraqi Freedom, medical teams and medical technology of the Special Operations Forces are combining to ensure every second counts in saving lives.

According to the command surgeon of the Air Force Special Operations Command, at least 12 people injured during Enduring Freedom are alive today thanks to these advances.

"Before Enduring Freedom, (Special Operations) took on the task to find the right combination of people and equipment to bring emergency critical care medical capabilities further forward than ever before," said Col. (Dr.) James Dougherty.

"We brought the surgical teams and critical care stabilization personnel up to the tip of the spear, alongside our other SOF medical forces," said Colonel Dougherty, a trauma surgeon.

Not resting on the successes of Enduring Freedom, the U. S. Special Operations Command medical commu-

nity continue to search out technology that will further increase the life-saving capabilities. According to Colonel Dougherty, one in 10 soldiers wounded in battle needs immediate trauma surgery to survive.

Command surgeons from across the unified command gathered here recently for a conference at the Joint Special Operations University to discuss medical advances in technology and capabilities. The surgeons joined with Air Force Pararescuemen and Independent Duty Medical Technicians to highlight some of those advances for national and local media.

The showcase featured medical breakthroughs that are increasing the chance of survival for U.S. military engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I feel confident that the sons and daughters fighting the war have a much better means to medical (care) that'll preserve and save their lives," said U.S. Navy Capt. (Dr.) Larry Garsha, U.S. Naval Special Warfare Command command surgeon. NAVSPECWARFARE is headquartered in San Diego, and home to the U.S. Navy SEALs.

One of the most dramatic medical advances available to frontline care in OIF is the chitosan bandage. When applied to injuries, such as amputations, bullet wounds and other serious surface bleeding, it will stop external hemorrhaging in two minutes.

"This bandage will have a direct impact on reducing battlefield death," said U.S. Air Force Col. (Dr.) David Hammer, USSOCOM command surgeon.

A medical team is currently training forward SOF medics – Pararescuemen and Army Special Forces medics, and IDMTs – on the use of the bandage.

The PJs and IDMTs, frontline responders to injured soldiers, are also fielding a one-handed tourniquet. This device makes it possible for the medic or PJ to stop bleeding with one hand, therefore, allowing him to attend to other wounds, check vital signs, or even attend to another patient.

Another link in the life-saving chain applauded by the command surgeons are portable, transportable and multi-functional "emergency room" machines. This backpack ER provides

light, lean and mobile equipment to ensure vital surgical care within minutes of the frontline, said Colonel Dougherty.

"The gear inside the packs is a slimmed down, lightened up intensive care unit," said the colonel. "(During OEF) we had this care further forward than ever before," the colonel said. "We saved lives by cutting in half the time it took to get patients needed critical care. One patient received life-saving surgery within 27 minutes of the trauma event."

Part of the ER backpack is a laptop computer that serves as: an ultrasound, an EKG, and a pulmonary functions and pulse oximetry. Data from the computer can be sent via satellite communications to medical specialists either further in the rear of the battle or within the United States.

The focus of these advances is to save lives, Colonel Dougherty said.

"We have to put life-saving surgical intervention closer to those most at risk – the frontline forces. Our focus has to be on the warfighter – they're the reason we're here," the colonel concluded.

LIFESTYLE

Military

AF uniform change proposal

Proposals for the upcoming Air Force Uniform Board are being accepted until April 18. Inputs should provide a detailed description of the proposed change or uniform problem with a specific, workable solution that has tangible benefits. They must also: be in the proper format; endorsed by the unit commander; and submitted to 16th Mission Support Squadron customer support section. For more information about submitting a proposal, call Vincent Filpi at 884-5280.

Operation Air Force

Hurlburt Field is looking for sponsors and shadow officers to provide mentorship in both professional and social settings for Operation Air Force, a summer program that allows Air Force Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets an opportunity to experience life at an operational base. The three two-week sessions scheduled for this summer are: June 8-20; June 29-July 11; and July 20-Aug. 1. Those interested in volunteering for the program should call Capt. Mari Garcia at 884-2629 or e-mail marilyn.garcia@hurlburt.af.mil.

AFSA meeting

The Chapter 567, Air Force Sergeant's Association holds a membership meeting Wednesday at 3 p.m. at J.R. Rockers, where the First Term Airman of the Year and the NCO of the Year for the chapter will be announced. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Bernadette Garces at 884-7633.

Air Force Reserve

The Reserve is a natural extension of active-duty Air Force service. For a commitment of one weekend a month and two weeks a year, a service member will: continue to accrue retirement and other benefits; keep current rank status; and cross-train if possible. For more information about the Reserve, call Master Sgt. John Tillie at 884-2656.

Community

April CARE events

April is historically recognized as the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commando Agencies Reaching Everyone, a subcommittee of the 16th Special Operations Wing Community Action Information Board, has organized several activities for the month to raise community awareness of child abuse and to provide special activities for military children and their families. The following have been scheduled for next week:

Bundles for Babies ñ Wednesday, 1 p.m., family support center

Panhandle Job Fair ñ Thursday, 10 a.m., Okaloosa County Fairgrounds

Pre-School Storyhour: iEgg Hunt ñ Thursday, 10 a.m., base library

iFight for Your Marriage ñ seminar ñ Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., base chapel

For more information regarding any of these sched-

uled events, call Cathy Holmes, family advocacy outreach, at 884-4936.

ëHelmets to Hardhats

Cliff Mashburn, Southeastern Regional Recruiter for iHelmets to Hardhats, ñ a non-profit program that opens a pipeline between military service and America's construction industry jobs, will be at the Panhandle Spring Job Fair Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds, Fort Walton Beach.

The Helmets to Hardhats service is used by employers, contractors and trades to find ñ among the nation's separating service members or Guard and Reserve forces ñ mature, stable and dependable workers. Positions available include: bricklayers, carpenters, cement masons, electricians, operating engineers, painters, plumber/pipefitters, ironworkers, insulators, roofers and those possessing an entire range of construction skills. For more information, see Mr. Mashburn at the job fair, or visit the program's Web site at www.helmetstohardhats.org.

AFA membership drive

The Hurlburt Field Chapter of the Air Force Association hosts its annual membership drive May 1-30, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the base mini-mall. Membership is open to all Air Force personnel, to include civilian employees. Membership benefits include: low-cost life insurance; a subscription to the Air Force Magazine; and the opportunity to work with other facets of the Air Force and local community. For more information, call Dick Schaller, chapter president, at 651-3443.

Utility Relief Program

Service members, who are Fort Walton Beach utility customers and deploying, can request to be put on deployment status, allowing a military customer to terminate water, sewer and garbage services without losing their utility deposit. It also eliminates connection fees upon returning from overseas. For more information or to temporarily terminate services, call the customer service division at 833-9500.

ëMunch and Mend

The Hurlburt Chapel will host Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. During this time, service members can enjoy a free dinner while having either minor repairs done or stripes, patches, or name tags sewn on one article of clean clothing. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371, or Jimmie Thomas at 881-3344.

New traffic route

Starting Monday, the inbound traffic at the East Gate entrance of the base will be re-directed to Golf Course Road and onto Brims Road. Traffic flow will proceed back to normal at the intersection of Independence Road, Loop Road and Brims Road. The outbound traffic won't be affected. For more information, call 1st Lt. Teresa Lord, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 884-4489.

Commissary closing

The Hurlburt Field Commissary will be closed April 20 in observance of the Easter holiday. It will re-open under normal business hours April 22 at 9 a.m. The Eglin Air Force Base Commissary, however, will be open April 20 under normal business hours.

Hurlburt Field Chapel 884-7795



Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education:

September ñ May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),

11:30 a.m. (traditional),

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August ñ May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday ñ (R) iDeliver Us from Eva, ñ starring LL Cool J and Gabrielle Union ñ Hardened by her parents' deaths, Eva gives up her dreams to provide for her three sisters. The sisters honor and obey Eva's every decision at the expense of self-absorbed men. Fed up, the three men conspire to rid themselves of Eva once and for all.

Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. ñ (G) iThe Jungle Book 2, ñ animated film ñ Mowgli gets restless and decides to return to the wild necessities of jungle life. He leaves behind his new girlfriend, Shanti, who's afraid of the dangerous wild animals Mowgli used to being around. Mowgli's old nemesis, the tiger named Shere Khan, is out for bloody revenge. Can Mowgli's old friends, Baloo and crew help him avoid Khan's lethal claws?

Sunday ñ (R) iAdaptation, ñ starring Nicolas Cage and Meryl Streep ñ The true story of a plant dealer and three Seminole Indians, who conspired to clone rare orchids and sell them at exorbitant rates to plant collectors. Also included, is the tale of screenwriter, Charlie Kaufman, who attempts to adapt The Orchid Thief to the big screen.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday ñ (PG-13) iGods and Generals, ñ starring Bruce Boxleitner and Billy Campbell ñ Thomas iStonewall Jackson, the famous Confederate general, along with Gen. Robert E. Lee, must weigh the mighty consequences of their actions, as each battle costs the lives of thousands of men. Over on the Union side, there's Col. Joshua Chamberlain, who, like General Jackson and General Lee, is fond of making long, poetic speeches to his troops. Beginning with the start of the war and ending with General Jackson's death, the film chronicles the three main battles leading up to Gettysburg.

Saturday ñ (R) iCradle 2 Grave, ñ starring DMX and Jet Li ñ When an international criminal kidnaps the daughter of a gang leader as part of a diamond heist, it causes a city's police department to engage in an intensive search aided by the father's gangsters.

Sunday ñ (R) iThe Life of David Gale, ñ starring Kevin Spacey and Laura Linney ñ Dr. David Gale, a Texan professor and advocate for the elimination of the death penalty, is falsely accused and convicted of the rape and murder of another activist, Constance Harraway. Ironically, he ends up on the state's notorious death row himself.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)

Community

Bowling tournament

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses' Club is sponsoring a bowling tournament April 25 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Bowling Center to raise money for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The registration fee's \$20 per person – with four to five players per team, and paid at the bowling center. For more information, call Kia Levine at 581-8322, or Danielle Wolfe at 916-0963.

Southern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University's registration for the summer term continues through May 2. The university is also offering a bachelor of science in industrial technology, which requires 16 courses or 48 credit hours. Courses are offered on alternating weekends from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning May 3. For more information, call Tracy Deming at 581-9840 or e-mail ithurlburt@fwb.gulf.net, or visit the base education building.

Summer shipping season

Upon the receipt of orders or 30 days before making a permanent change of station move, military members and those retiring or separating should make plans to ship personal property with the traffic management office Mondays through Fridays 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. When visiting the office, bring: a copy of the orders; dates for moving; amendments for each shipment planned; and an estimated weight for the shipment. For more information, call 884-6051.

'Fight for Your Marriage'

The Hurlburt Field Base Chapel is offering a free, one-day Fight for Your Marriage seminar April 19 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all military beneficiaries. The

seminar will focus on: developing better communication skills; resolving conflict without violence; and enhancing fun, friendship and commitment. For more information or to register for the event, call 884-4936.

Free car show

The 16th Maintenance Group Committee Bash for 2003 is sponsoring a free car show Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Mall for military personnel and their families. The participation fee is \$10, and registration is from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday. Participants will have several categories to choose from, and there will be contests for each. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Aaron Frazier at 882-5327 or e-mail aaron.frazier@hurlburt.af.mil, or call Master Sgt. Jan Koga at 881-2628 or e-mail jan.koga@hurlburt.af.mil.

APA Heritage Month

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and the APA Club along with the military equal opportunity office is seeking military and civilian volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting programs for the observance period. The committee meets Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the MEO classroom in Building 90210, Room 244. For more information about APA Heritage Month, e-mail Chief Master Sgt. Ramon Rogado at ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil, or call Staff Sgt. Bill White at 884-5879.

Appreciation ceremony

The Hurlburt Field Volunteer Advisory Council hosts the annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony today from 10 a.m. to noon at the Soundside. The event will recognize more than 600 volunteers supporting 12 base organizations as well as announce the winners of the Angel and Volunteer Excellence Awards. For more information, call 884-1533.

YMCA Military Sundays

In respect of all military members serving during the

war, the Fort Walton Family YMCA welcomes active-duty military members and their families to enjoy the center's facilities free every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Services available include: an indoor pool; a weight room; basketball courts; a sauna; and a steam room.

Also, today and May 9 there will be lock-ins from 8 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. for family members ages 5-12. Snacks, crafts, swimming and games will be provided. Participants will need to bring: a sleeping bag; pillow; towel; and swimsuit. For more information, call 863-9622.

Classes

Employment Orientation

Come to the Employment Orientation class and find out about job listings, books, videos and computer/prINTER rooms available in the local area. Participants will also receive assistance in writing a resumé. For more information, call 884-5441.

Eating Heart Healthy

Learn how to plan meals, cook and shop to lower cholesterol and blood pressure. For more information, call 884-4292.

FSC Classes:

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.

Resumé Workshop – Monday, 1 p.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

HAWC classes:

Weight Loss Group – Monday, 10 a.m.

Lean On Me – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Eat Heart Healthy – Tuesday, 3 p.m.

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SPORTS

Soccer game played for deployed troops

By Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

The University of West Florida Argonauts bagged the Hurlburt Field Commandos 2-0 in an exhibition soccer game at Choctawhatchee High School's Etheridge Stadium April 4.

Scheduled as part of the Argonauts' practice season, the game was played to honor deployed troops, and was recorded by Eglin Air Force base multimedia to be broadcast to troops overseas.

A goal was put into the net by UWF's Jason Lill in the first minute of the game, followed by a second goal by Stevie Simmons in minute 13. The Commandos held the Argonauts at bay for the remainder of the game.

"We played against a very fit, fast, and young team," said Raul "Maldini" Martinez, a defensive sweeper. "They've obviously been playing together

for a while and know how each other plays."

The collegiate soccer game, with two 45-minute periods, was the last soccer match here for Martinez, who's been on the Commando team for more than two years.

"The Argonauts brought a style of soccer we weren't used to playing against," he said. "It threw us off for the first goal.

"The second goal came off of a mistake by me, which is of course very, very rare," he joked. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to score against them."

Win or lose, the game successfully fulfilled all goals for everyone involved, said Joseph Caruth, UWF academic advisor, who coordinated the event.

"Our young military members proved they have the athletic ability to compete with a National Collegiate Athletic Association division II soccer power house," he said. "Our UWF student athletes were able to meet

and compete with some of our finest military athletes, and our university community has moved a step closer to understanding more about our young service members and the great personal sacrifices they make."

The game is schedule to air on Channel 6 at 5 p.m. Sunday.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor



Jeff Elliott, 16th Services Squadron (left), slides to take the ball from Stephen Pait, of the University of West Florida. (above) Jehovany Lopez-Trevino, 16th Medical Group, gets into a head-butt battle with UWF's Trebor Hartley. Goalie Shawn Robinson (top) braces to catch the ball.

Sports briefs

Super day

Super Day is scheduled for May 2. Squadrons that would like to participate should contact their unit sports representatives about forming teams.

Race For Justice

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring the 4th Annual Race For Justice at 8 a.m. Saturday at The Landing of Fort Walton Beach. Registration is

\$20 and begins at 7 a.m. All proceeds benefit Okaloosa County victims of crime. For more information, call Mary Riminger at 651-7438.

16th MSG golf tournament

The 16th Mission Support Group Dining Out Golf Tournament begins with a shotgun start at Gator Lakes Golf Course here at 8 a.m., April 18. Registration begins at 7 p.m., and deadline for entry is Tuesday. Many golf

competitions are scheduled to be held, including a four-person best ball tournament (\$39 per player sign-up fee, which includes golf cart, green fee and barbecue lunch) and a "putt for \$10,000" event. In addition to door prizes, winners receive free rounds of golf at top local courses. For more information or to sign up, call Tom Maguire at 884-6882, Edwin Byrns at 884-1494, or Brian Evans at 884-1154, or e-mail thomas.maguire; edwin.byrns; or brian.evans@hurlburt.af.mil.